



**State of Utah**  
**Department of**  
**Natural Resources**

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
*Executive Director*

**Division of**  
**Oil, Gas & Mining**

JOHN R. BAZA  
*Division Director*

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
*Governor*

GARY R. HERBERT  
*Lieutenant Governor*

October 25, 2005

Tom Newman  
Holcim (US) Inc.  
1405 Parkwood Drive  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525

Subject: Submittal of Final Copy of Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations, Holcim (US) Inc., Skull Valley Diatomaceous Earth Quarry, M/045/060, Tooele County, Utah

Dear Mr. Newman:

The Division received two copies of the referenced Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations on October 17, 2005. This was the original submittal we received August 24, 2004, and does not include the changes made during the review process. Also, the submittal did not include any of the maps or photographs. If you need assistance in determining which version of the mine plan you should submit, please contact Paul Baker at 801-538-5261 or Doug Jensen at 801-538-5382.

On October 11, 2005, we received the soils and vegetation report done by WP Natural Resource Consulting. This report contains baseline information needed for your large mine notice and needs to be included, probably as an appendix.

The report contains information about the soils that is likely to help with some of the revegetation problems (this is the reason for gathering this information). The report shows there are no salt problems in the top eight inches of soil but indicates there are probably increasing salt concentrations with depth. Therefore, the practice you have followed to salvage and eventually replace the top three feet of soil may have resulted in increased salt concentrations near the surface. This, in turn, may have contributed to the lack of establishment of perennial species.

You should use the report as a guide to modify the plan for harvesting and replacing soils. We suggest you should salvage the top eight inches of soil and not

Tom Newman  
Page 2 of 2  
M/045/060  
October 25, 2005

mix it with deeper soils. Any other material above the mineral deposit you are mining should be handled as overburden rather than as soil.

Thank you for your cooperation in finalizing the mine plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "M".

Susan M. White  
Mining Program Coordinator  
Minerals Regulatory Program

SMW:PBB:jb  
cc: Larry Garahana, Salt Lake BLM  
O:\M045-Tooele\M0450060-SkullValleyDiatoms\final\ltr--plan-10252005.doc